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SB 549 (Hall) Charitable Raffles
FACT SHEET

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ISSUE

Across the United States more than 100 professional sports franchises are successfully operating 50/50 charitable raffles at sporting events in order to maximize donations to local charities. These types of charitable raffles are raffles in which 50% of the proceeds go towards the winner, and 50% of the proceeds go to the local charities designated by the professional sports team for that particular event.

Unfortunately, current law in California requires that at least 90% of the proceeds of a charitable raffle go to a charitable organization and only 10% can be used for the prize. The current 90/10 rule was established in 2000 when California Voters passed Proposition 17. Prior to the passage, it was illegal to conduct charitable raffles in California because by definition raffles were considered lotteries and thus prohibited by California Law.

Limiting the size of the prize has hindered the overall results of charitable raffles in California and made them less attractive for participants.

SOLUTION

SB 549 allows for professional sports organizations to operate game-day 50/50 charitable raffles in which 50% of the proceeds go towards the winner, and 50% of the proceeds go to the local charities designated by the professional sports team for that particular event. Participation in 50/50 charitable raffles in other states has been popular, and are now being held in more than 29 states and 10 Canadian providences. This bill provides an opportunity for fans who attend professional sporting events to voluntarily participate in a raffle directly benefiting charities in their local communities.

SB 549 will maintain the same protections currently in law by requiring charitable organization holding the raffle to register, report, and be regulated by the Attorney General.

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(As amended 6/23/2015)